Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 07296 180512Z

41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 ISO-00

IO-13 IGA-02 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /141 W ----- 075040

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, IT

SUBJ: GATT COUNCIL TREATMENT OF ITALIAN DEPOSIT MEASURES

REF: STATE 227429

BEGIN SUMMARY. GATT COUNCIL ESTABLISHED WORKING PARTY TO EXAMINE ITALIAN MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

1. AT SEPTEMBER 17 GATT COUNCIL, ITALY ANNOUNCED THAT "MONETARY" DEPOSIT SYSTEM HAD ABSORBED 4.75 BILLION DOLLARS, THEREBY PROVING ITS EFFICIENCY. HOWEVER IT HAVING NO IMPACT ON IMPORTS, AS "GENERAL TREND" OF ITALIAN IMPORTS HAS NOT STOPPED. FIRST HALF 1976 TRADE DEFICIT WAS 3.5 BILLION DOLLARS. ITALY RECALLED POSITION PREVIOUSLY STATED IN COUNCIL THAT SINCE MEASURES PURELY MONETARY, GATT EXAMINATION WAS NOT APPROPRIATE.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 07296 180512Z

2. U.S. REMINDED COUNCIL OF OUR OWN PREVIOUS COUNCIL

STATEMENTS REGRETTING NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT (AND NOW EXTENSION) OF DEPOSITS; ASKED FOR PROMPT EXAMINATION BY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE. WE SAID NORMAL GATT EXAM-INATION IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF TRADE EFFECTS OF DEPOSITS. JAPAN SUPPORTED EXAMINATION IN "APPROPRIATE" GATT FORUM. FINLAND, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, NIGERIA SUPPORTED BOP COMMITTEE EXAMINATION. AUSTRIA SUPPORTED EXAMINATION BUT INDICATED NO PREFERENCE FOR FORUM. RE-FINEMENT OF ARGENTINE APPEAL WAS THAT BOP COMMITTEE SHOULD BE REQUESTED GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO EFFECTS ON LDCS. INDIA THEN TOOK UP THIS LATTER ASPECT BUT ALSO DECLINED SPECIFY THE FORUM. EC SAID MEASURE IS MONETARY MEASURE, HAD FELT A "TECHNICAL" DOUBT WHETHER MEASURE COMES UNDER GATT. HOWEVER DESPITE THIS RESERVATION, EC WILLING ACCEPT STUDY WITHIN A SPECIAL SP TO EXAMINE RE-STRICTIONS IN LIGHT OF ARTICLE XV. AFTER BACK-AND-FORTH DISCUSSION, DURING WHICH EC POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES, NEW ZEALAND, AND MANY OTHERS HAD BEEN EXAMINED IN WORKING PARTIES, COUNCIL ESTABLISHED SPECIAL WP "TO EXAMINE IN THE LIGHT OF PERTINENT GATT ARTICLES THE MONE-TARY MEASURES INTRODUCED BY ITALY IN MAY 1976, IN PAR-TICULAR THE DEPOSITS, TO REPORT TO THE COUNCIL, AND TO CONTINUE BE AVAILABLE AS NECESSARY."CATTO

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